



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1725 | FAX (517) 373.0741

[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/mcmanus/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/mcmanus/)

For Immediate Release

June 22, 2006

Contact: Veronica LaDuke

517-373-1725

## **Apprentice hunting bill sent to governor**

**LANSING** – Legislation to make it easier for first-time hunters to experience the sport is headed to the governor’s desk, announced Sen. Michelle McManus, sponsor of the bill.

“Heading into the woods with a mentor is a great way for new hunters young and old to experience the sport for the first time,” said McManus, R-Lake Leelanau. “Adult-supervised hunters have a proven track record of safety, and allowing first-time hunters the option to enter the woods under the watchful eye of an adult mentor is a great way to introduce them to the sport.”

Under Senate Bill 1105, a person of legal hunting age would have the option of applying for an apprentice hunting license if he or she had not previously held a standard hunter’s license. The apprentice license would exempt a person from completing a hunter’s safety course so long as the individual was accompanied by a licensed adult 21 years or older. A person could hunt with an apprentice hunting license for just two years. To continue hunting after that, he or she would need to apply for a standard license and pass a hunting safety course.

“The apprentice hunting program is a great opportunity to promote our state’s hunting heritage and reach out to new hunters,” McManus said. “By giving first-time hunters the option to hunt with a mentor, we can expose people to the sport who might otherwise have never experienced it.”

A separate bill, House Bill 5192, sponsored by Rep. Scott Hummel, would lower the legal hunting age from 14 to 12 years of age for large game and 12 to 10 years of age for small game. HB 5192 also is before the governor.

Similar legislation has been adopted in six states, including Minnesota, Ohio and Illinois.

###